



# NEIGHBORHOOD

# WATCH



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Chief of Police

## NEWSLETTER

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**POLICE BUSINESS 898-3315**

**GRAFFITTI REMOVAL 898-2876**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EXT.590**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT 898-3311**

### CRIME

Whether it's a wallet stolen, a mailbox vandalized, a convenience store robbed, or a pedestrian mugged, crime touches and hurts everyone.

Crime has two victims. One is the person who suffers loss or injury. The other is the community. When faced with rising crime, neighbors retreat behind locked doors, merchants abandon businesses, and streets become empty at night. Fear creates isolation, and that increases the neighborhood's vulnerability to crime.

Crime doesn't have to be a fact of life. Millions of citizens in thousands of neighborhoods across the country have proved that building a sense of community and taking commonsense precautions can cut crime and counter fear. It takes time, energy, and commitment, but the results are worth it!

### PREVENTION

Do you know what prevention means? It means making it harder for something harmful to happen.

Crime prevention means reducing the chances for criminals to victimize you, your family, and neighbors. It means protecting property and teaching kids and adults to be alert and aware. It means doing things that build communities up, and stopping things that tear communities down.

Crime prevention isn't a flashy gimmick or a trendy fad. The idea of citizens working together to do something about crime has steadily gained momentum. Neighborhood Watch signs are



now a part of the landscape. Law enforcement agencies and community groups view crime prevention as a priority. Join the millions of citizens already helping. Protect yourself and your loved ones, watch out for neighbors, and work to make your community a better place in which to live. And don't forget to report all crimes to the police.

## **PROTECTING YOUR HOME**

One of the crimes most frequently reported to the police is residential burglary. It's also the most preventable. It doesn't take much or cost much to out-smart most burglars. They're usually not professionals, but rather people taking advantage of an easy target.

- Make sure all your exterior doors have good locks—at least dead-bolt locks with minimum one-inch throw.
- Use the lock you have. Always lock up when you go out, even if only for a few minutes.
- Make sure outside doors and door frames are solid, 1 ¾" metal or hardwood.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, and put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.
- Make sure your windows have good locks, particularly those at ground level. Lock double-hung windows by sliding a small-headed bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a slight downward angle in a top corner of the inside sash and partway into the outside sash.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and outside areas are well lighted.
- Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Maintain your yard and keep ladders and tools inside when you're not using them.
- Don't hide your keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. That's the first place burglars look! It's much better to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Mark your valuable property like televisions, VCR's, computers, cameras, and stereos with your driver's license number. Borrow an engraver from the police. Keep a record of your property in a safe place.
- Consider installing an alarm system for summoning emergency help.
- Ask the Crime Prevention Officer to do a security survey of your home.
- If you park your car outside of your garage, never leave the garage door opener in the car.

## **IF YOU LIVE IN AN APARTMENT**

- Do your part to see that entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas are well lighted. Mailboxes should be in a well traveled, well lighted area.



- Make sure fire stairs are locked from the stairwell side with an appropriate emergency release mechanism. Laundry rooms and storage areas should be kept locked.
- Use common area locks and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

## **WHEN YOU GO AWAY**

- Ask a neighbor to collect your mail and newspapers, and offer to return the favor.
- Put an automatic timer on at least two lights and a radio. Consider photoelectric sensors to turn outside lights on and off automatically.
- Tell a trusted neighbor when you're leaving and when you'll return. Include an itinerary and phone numbers where you can be reached in an emergency.

## **PROTECTING AND IMPROVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

There's more to crime prevention than locks and lighting. The fact is, concerned neighbors who watch out for and care about each other are the front-line defenses against crime.

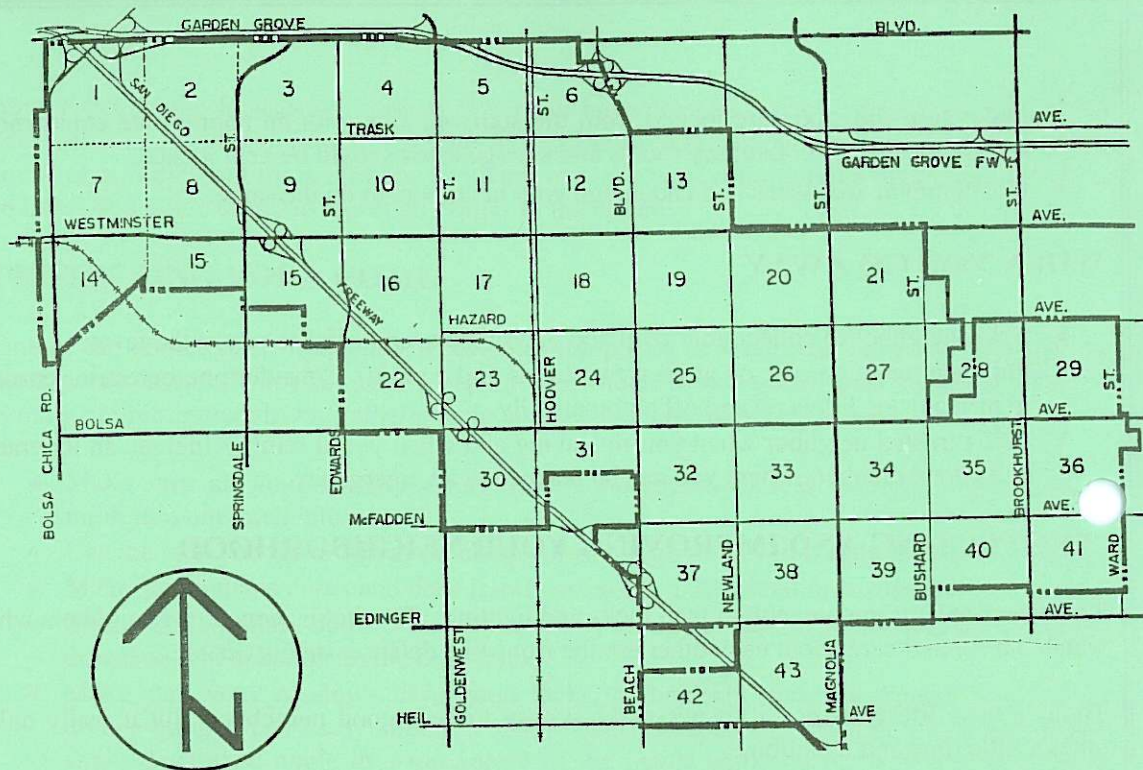
Today's busy lifestyles don't always make it easy to be a good neighbor. But it really only takes a little time and attention.

- Get to know your neighbors and discuss your concerns about the neighborhood and community. Share information.
- Be alert to things that say "we don't care" and invite crime like poor street lighting, boarded-up buildings, a lack of recreational activities or jobs for teens, vacant lots littered with debris, and inadequate day care and after-school programs. Work with law enforcement, civic groups, schools, local businesses, community agencies, churches, and service clubs to solve the problems.
- Help local government do its job. Alert law enforcement to suspicious activities and any crimes. Report nonworking street lights, missing street signs, abandoned cars and other problems to the agencies responsible. How can they help if they don't know there's a problem?

## **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Although seniors are the least likely to be victims of crime, fear can cause older citizens to radically alter their lifestyles and retreat into isolation. It doesn't have to be this way. Older people can be the backbone of a Neighborhood or Apartment Watch, provide a block home for children, help tutor school children, or volunteer to help at the local senior center.





RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES													
AREA	NOV	DEC	YTD	LAST YEAR	AREA	NOV	DEC	YTD	LAST YEAR	AREA	NOV	DEC	YTD
1	0	0	1	4	15	1	1	13	6	31	0	0	0
2	0	0	5	3	16	0	0	1	10	32	0	0	4
3	1	0	4	8	17	1	2	10	8	33	2	2	15
4	1	1	3	3	18	0	0	7	5	34	3	1	19
5	0	0	1	6	19	0	1	3	3	35	1	0	5
6	1	0	3	2	20	1	1	11	12	36	1	1	13
7	0	0	3	1	21	2	0	9	9	37	1	0	7
8	0	0	5	8	22	0	1	1	2	38	1	0	2
9	1	1	7	0	23	0	0	1	0	39	2	1	11
10	1	0	2	6	26	0	0	5	3	40	0	0	2
11	1	0	13	8	27	3	0	9	3	41	1	0	5
12	2	0	8	4	28	1	1	13	8	42	0	0	2
13	0	0	10	7	29	3	1	20	10	43	0	0	5
14	0	0	3	4	30	0	0	7	2				